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August 1, 2000
Contact: Pamela Gregg
gregg@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

SUNDAY, AUG. 7: UD SUMMER COMMENCEMENT GRADS TOTAL 415

University of Dayton students pursuing graduate degrees make up the majority of students who will receive diplomas during summer commencement exercises at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, at UD Arena.

Of the 415 graduating students, 95 will receive undergraduate degrees, 314 will receive graduate degrees and six will receive doctoral degrees.

PAT KELLEHER: FOLLOWS IN CHILDREN'S FOOTSTEPS TO UD

When Pat Kelleher makes the commute from her home in Dublin, Ohio, to the University of Dayton, she simply puts her car on autopilot and it drives itself to campus, she says with a laugh. But there may be more truth than humor to her claim.

Kelleher will receive her doctoral degree in education from the University on Aug. 6 and has been traveling to campus regularly for three to six weeks each summer for her studies since 1992. For all but the last 18 months, that commute has been from Hudson, Mass.

But Kelleher's travels to UD actually began with her husband, Jim, 28 years ago, when the couple's oldest son, James, came to Dayton to pursue a degree in civil engineering. One by one, all five of the Kellehers' children made their way to UD. The first four — James and John (class of '77), Mary (class of '81) and Shrah (class of '82) — earned bachelor's degrees in engineering. The youngest, Grace (class of '87), received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

The family affair expanded when Mary and Grace married University of Dayton grads George Smith (class of '79) and Ken Heigel (class of '87), respectively, and when grandson Jake Kelleher enrolled as a freshman in engineering last fall.

"We were here to see our children at least twice a year, every year," Kelleher said during a recent visit to campus. "I always used to find it like a retreat — so beautiful and so peaceful. Of course we've always believed UD offers an excellent education — all our children are in very good jobs — but equally important is that caring and supportive family feeling that's part of the Marianist tradition here. When your children are far away at school, it's very comforting to know they're in good hands."

Kelleher, who served for nine years as principal of Hudson Catholic High School before moving with Jim to Dublin, hopes to apply her studies to a career in Catholic education in the Columbus area.

For more information, call Myron Achbach, director of admission, at (937) 229-4411 and Pat Kelleher at (614) 799-1976.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu